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guns. A militia might be easily trained to co-operate, but the first attack would probably be sudden, and could be only met by a force upon the spot. Perhaps the colony has no right to object that the Government, in proposing this force, has carried the idea of economy too far. The employment of policemen as gunners will be attended with great inconvenience, and the Government would be justified in demanding of the Legislature sufficient for the defence, independent of contrivances which are perhaps both irregular and delusive; and however reluctant the Executive Council might be to vote the necessary supplies, a sense of duty would have overpowered all other considerations. The returning peace may perhaps render this part of the scheme of no practical consequence; but should war assume a new and more threatening aspect, it is obvious that all those trivial means of defence must be abandoned at once.

The unanimous opinion of the meeting in reference to the militia, expressed not the wish, but the conviction, of the colony; and although discouraged by the Government now, will claim the early attention of the Parliament. Many are disposed to concede to his Excellency's better judgment, in his own professional line, who yet claim to estimate political probabilities with perfect independence. Were England at war with France, a military occupation would be attempted, and if successful for a time, would probably place the city between two fires. The capture of a few thousand men, would not be felt by a great military power, even were England triumphant, and it is a great mistake to suppose that England will risk their lives against an organised force, in a mere partisan warfare for the mere purpose of revenge. The proposal to hire foreign troops is met on the threshold by this constitutional objection—that the power intended for the protection of the people might be turned to their oppression—that owing to no allegiance and working merely for pay, they would, perhaps, fail us in the moment of danger. The difference between employing foreign troops in foreign service, and their employment in the place of a militia, is amply illustrated in the practice of England and continental nations. The despots of Europe were accustomed to hire the mountaineers of Switzerland to surround their palaces and coerce their subjects. England, when she has engaged foreigners, has employed them for actual warfare, and disbanded them the moment peace has been restored. We are not aware—except, in some instances, where Hanoverian troops were admitted with great reluctance, though few in number—that England has ever suffered her soil to be garrisoned by strangers.

In the uncertainty of our political future it is necessary, if armies are assembled for our defence, that they should be directed by a British spirit, and for purposes purely colonial. The training of a militia in this colony must be a work of time, and an expensive uniform ought to be avoided. A military cap and blouse would be quite sufficient, and they would not cost the wearer more than a few shillings. Arms should be provided at the common expense. Time ought to be paid for when extra drilling is required; but generally, and in times of peace, the pomp and circumstance of war might be dispensed with. Occasional musters would be sufficient to secure organisation. This is the course in America. Travellers describe the ordinary military array of the Yankees as extremely grotesque and unmarial. Yet all are accustomed to handle arms, and to understand military orders, and thus they number their soldiers by millions. Before the American war, the "Provincials" were the laughing-stock of every mess-room; at its close the Americans were able to exhibit trophies which England had no cause to despise. We have not thought the adoption of free institutions improper, although their first action is attended with much awkwardness and many failures. It is felt that a young country must labour under disadvantages in developing an organization borrowed from a country like England—that its senators cannot be expected to rival Fox and Sheridan, although they may be equally diligent and speak at equal length; that our soldiers cannot make the ground tremble under them like the legions gathered in Hyde Park—that our gun-boats will long be too few to require an elaborate distinction of flags or afford many naval gradations—but these are no reasons to despise the first efforts which, with all their awkwardness and imperfection, display a spirit far more admirable than the worship of Mammon.

THE QUEEN'S representative finds her Majesty's colonial subjects hard to please. The Legislative Council directs him to make provision for public works, and when he submits a scheme in accordance with the mandate, it is condemned for its impracticability. The works required cannot be executed with the ordinary resources of the country, and an extraordinary provision becomes necessary in the way of loan. About the urgency of the case there is no controversy. The country languishes under the chronic disease of defective circulation. Differing from almost every other country in the world in the absence of navigable rivers, serving as great natural channels for the equal distribution of population and wealth, its progress has been irregular and uncertain, dependent upon the mere accident of new discoveries, or the fitful fever of popular impulse. Agriculture being practically prohibited by the want of thoroughfares, the only alternative was the depasturing of stock in the wilderness, and the yet of this rude and semi-civilized occupation has been the almost hopeless dispersion of the people over an enormous territory, and has rendered it impracticable, if not impossible, to re-unite them for any social object requiring combined action.

The gold discovery has rather increased than diminished the evil, in augmenting the class of mere distributors of wealth out of all proportion to that of producers. The want of proper arterial causes population to break out in small patches, principally in places on the coast to which there is water communication by steamer, and also in one or two choice spots in the interior, in which the natural advantages of the locality have been sufficiently great to counteract the drawback of defective communication with the metropolis. In all other respects the territory is little better than a vast pastoral run, its natural resources undeveloped, the cultivation of the land neglected to such a degree that it cannot supply its population with the prime necessities of life; the same population dispersed, inert, and without energy; its capital like the single talent of the parable, producing no fruit. The want of an enterprise of the people is shown by the fact that its associative energy is insufficient to construct fifteen miles of railway, even with the aid of the Government, and the conclusion is irresistible that its power of organized action yet remains to be awakened.

Under all the circumstances of the case, the want of capacity of the people of this colony for great industrial undertakings is hardly a matter of reproach. For a very long time, it will be remembered, some of the oldest and most wealthy States of the American Union have been compelled to have recourse to external aid for the construction of all but the most ordinary public works; and to this day, with the exception of England and one or two other countries, there is hardly a nation in Europe the railways of which have not been constructed by the State, and that, too, with borrowed capital. It is only a country with vast accumulated wealth that can find the funds for these undertakings. The capital applicable to them consists of the surplus of the national savings which the ordinary industry of the community cannot absorb, and which, if not invested in the improvement of internal traffic, would most probably disappear in foreign bubbles. A new country has rarely more accumulated capital than it can afford to invest without risk, and for extraordinary undertakings, the remuneration of which is distant or uncertain, it must depend upon extrinsic aid. This point has been conceded by the Legislature of this colony; and the only controversy now is as to the best mode of setting the great Executive agent in motion in the business of making railways.

It seems to us that the policy which the Government has proposed to pursue is, under all circumstances, a rational one. The works must be undertaken, the Legislature has, irrespective of all financial considerations, authorised them, and the only feasible mode of effecting the object is a public loan. Not only will the Government be sufficient to attract the surplus capital of other countries, but also to liberate our own, which would otherwise long remain dormant from the natural timidity of the people to embark their savings upon aught but the public security. As to the objection that extensive operations of the Government will injuriously affect the labour market in raising the rate of wages, it would have been a good one, perhaps, in the time of Governor MACQUEEN,—it was a good one when applied to the proceedings of Governor GAWLER, with his handful of colonists, in South Australia, in getting the Government into debt to employ the people upon public works which were not wanted,—it is a questionable one when applied to a country far advanced in opulence, and which is actually in a state of pauperism through the long neglect of the remedy which it is now proposed to apply. The effect of any operations of Government upon the labour market is quite needless to consider. Upon the two or three thousand people of South Australia it had a confessedly injurious effect; upon the two or three hundred thousand people of New South Wales the influence of Government competition upon the rate of wages cannot permanently affect it. The augmentation of the productive power of the community will, under any circumstances, be an ample compensation for any imaginable inconvenience.

STEAM POSTAL COMMUNICATION.
The Select Committee of the Legislative Council, to which was referred the Steam Postal Communication Bill, introduced by the Government, and whose report thereon appeared in our publication of Wednesday last, took the evidence of the following witnesses:—Mr. George Windsor Earl; Mr. James Paterson, secretary of the Australian Steam Navigation Company; Mr. J. N. Bell; the Postmaster-General; Captain Thomas; and Mr. Williams, the United States Consul. The following digest of the evidence by these gentlemen will be found interesting and useful.

Mr. EARL stated that he was attached to the Port Phillip establishment for eleven years, during which it was his duty to make himself acquainted with the geography and meteorology of Torres Straits. With the exception of the use of the screw propeller, power, for the purpose of rendering the communication between Singapore and Australia complete, the witness states that, to employ auxiliary steamers on the route, it would be necessary to take advantage of the prevailing winds in the tropic the tropic prevailing winds in the winter season were westerly; but in Torres Straits, from Port Curtis to Singapore, and between Singapore and Singapore, the wind was easterly, and the steady south-east trade, which blows throughout this part of the passage. An auxiliary screw propeller, unless a powerful vessel, would be unable to make the passage against the wind, and the strength of the south-east trade would be necessary for a vessel making the return route from Singapore to run against the south-east trade wind, and take advantage of the steady winds to make the rest of the passage round Cape Horn. The route would only be used in the winter months, the process in the summer season being quite reversed. During the summer months, from October to March inclusive, the prevailing winds on the south side of the tropic would be to the south-east, and within the tropic from Singapore to the latitude of Port Curtis the north-west monsoon prevails. During these months the screw steamers would have to come through Torres Straits, returning by Cape Horn, thus ensuring a fair wind the whole of the distance. By this reciprocating route the witness considers that vessels with very moderate auxiliary steam-power will be sufficient, but that much more speed could be attained by the employment of a vessel of the distance. By this reciprocating route the witness considers that vessels with very moderate auxiliary steam-power will be sufficient, but that much more speed could be attained by the employment of a vessel of the distance. By this reciprocating route the witness considers that vessels with very moderate auxiliary steam-power will be sufficient, but that much more speed could be attained by the employment of a vessel of the distance.

Mr. PATTERSON states that the Australian Steam Navigation Company has at present three vessels available for the required service—the City of Sydney, the Wonga Wonga, and (temporarily) the Boomerang, of which the first could be got ready at a month's notice. The company would not take a contract by making Benau Wangi—the port at the eastern extremity of Java—the point of contact of the imperial and colonial postal services, on the score of economy to both parties. A hydrographical memoir on the steam route from Singapore to Sydney via Torres Straits, containing some valuable practical suggestions with regard to the navigation, is appended to the evidence of the witness.

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—vessels of the kind the company required being procurable in England, and that half-dozens boats might be fitted out in three months. The description of the boats given by the witness were screw steamers of 150 to 250 tons, of a speed of 10 to 12 miles, and other things, to carry 200 tons dead weight, with no accommodation for 25 cabin and 30 steerage passengers. The witness had no doubt that these boats would make head-way against the prevailing monsoons, similar boats being constantly employed in the Bay of Biscay where the service was much more severe. The company which the witness represented was called the Australian General Investment Company, its object of incorporation was not passed, but a deed of settlement had been signed and registered. The objects for which the company was established were the purchase and sale of land, and agricultural pursuits generally in the colony, cattle and sheep breeding, and the production of wool; to act as general carriers for goods and passengers by land and water; capital £100,000, with power to increase it to £1,000,000. Three boats were to be employed on the service in question, each cost £12,000, and being considered that two boats only would be absolutely required, with one at hand in case of casualties. The witness was constituted agent for the company by a minute of the Board, he expected a power-of-attorney as soon as the Act passed. He had communicated with the company, as he had promised, and had requested that they would put themselves in a position in case a contract was offered to bring within the jurisdiction of the colony.

W. H. CHAMBERS, Esq., M.L.C., Postmaster-General, produced the correspondence between the Postmaster-General of Great Britain and himself on the subject of the proposed mail service between the colony and the United Kingdom. This correspondence comprised letters relating to the abandonment of the G. S. S. Company and the P. and O. Company of their respective contracts. The new arrangement subsequent to the abandonment of the former was only referred to in a short notice. Both months he received the same kind of notice. The witness stated at some length the indications afforded of the intention of the British Government to establish a mail communication with Australia; and he quoted in support of his statements the papers on Steam Communication with England ordered to be printed on the 12th June of the present year, and intimated by Mr. Rowland Hill to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. Temporary changes would be made in the packet service to the colonies and foreign countries, in consequence of the Government requiring so many of the contract mail packets to be sent by the route proposed. The witness stated that the British Government proposed to bring the mails as far as King George's Sound, and that the Peninsula and Oriental Company should do the remainder of the Indian branch of the route. Hill informed the witness that, made with the sanction of the Government, the Australian colonies, it would be deserving of attention, and, subject to a modification as regarded the division of postage, it might be advantageously carried out. The remaining indications referred to were a proposal by the Peninsula and Oriental Company, in October, 1854, to make the postal communication with Australia monthly, instead of once in two months, and that Lord Canning was about to recommend the Lord of the Treasury to sanction an agreement to that effect. This negotiation had failed, owing to the pressure of the war, and the witness recommended the passing of a short bill, authorising the expenditure of a sum of money for establishing such communication, without specifying any particular route or plan. An estimate of postal revenue for 1856 showed £6700 available within the colony, and £18,500 from the whole of the colonies. The appropriation of this would be a matter of arrangement with the home Government. "Should they," said the witness, "the reimbursement for their payment of the main trunk line, and the expenditure of the branch line, should be disposed to recommend that each country should retain its postal collections, thus getting rid of a tedious and complicated system of accounts; but, as the arrangements for the colonies are already complete, and a comparatively small additional sum in consideration of the increased weight of the mails to be carried, the Government might consent to defray the charges consequent on the conveyance of mails, on either the East or West Indian line, and, as a boon to the colonies, be induced to undertake the whole of the branch of the route, Hill informed the witness that, in consideration of the increased weight of the mails to be carried, the Government might consent to defray the charges consequent on the conveyance of mails, on either the East or West Indian line, and, as a boon to the colonies, be induced to undertake the whole of the branch of 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SATURDAY next, the 15th instant, at 11 o'clock precisely,
A quantity of useful and substantial household furniture, together
with a variety of useful household requisites, &c.
Terms, cash.

LOT 10.—LAND in the TOWN of WOLLONGONG, being No. 2 of section 15, and containing 2 roods. The titles to the various properties are good. Further particulars obtainable at the office of the auctioneers. Terms and conditions at sale.

Trial of Charles and Stafford
Gloria Patria
Waiting for the Ferry Boat
Sir Henry Hardinge and Staff
Coronation of the Queen.
Terms at sale.

street, THIS DAY, the 14th instant, at 11 o'clock,
 In lots to suit purchasers.
 60 cases Martell's bottled ale and porter, in 4 dozen
 prime order
 100 cases Lewnades' old tom, duty paid.
 Terms, cash.

MESSRS. and CO. have received instructions to offer for unreserved sale by public auction at the Rooms, Pitt-street, on FRIDAY, 14th October, 18 shares in the AUSTRALASIAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY. £30 paid up.
Terms at sale.

* Lithographs may also be had at Mr. John Barlow's Exchange Grocery Store, George-street South, near the market, Sydney.

Terms, which will be most liberal, at sale
 T is unhesitatingly
THE QUI-RENT IS REDEEMED.

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in England in 1837, show that he was acquainted with a process, which he kept secret, of forming, by the aid of the light, positive pictures, with lights, half-lights, and shadows, such as nature presents.

"The substance he originally employed was asphaltum—but as his process, though interesting in many respects, has long been abandoned, it is unnecessary to enter into details of it."

"We now arrive at the period when these first attempts to fix the images produced by sunlight assume a more interesting phase. By a singular coincidence two of the most beautiful discoveries of the science of photography were made, and in different countries, by philosophers pursuing independent investigations, and arriving at similar results by very different processes. The year 1839 may be regarded as the date of the birth of Photography, in the real sense of the term. On the 19th day of January in that year, and six months before the publication of Daguerre's process, Talbot communicated his photographic discoveries to the Royal Society, in an 'Essay on the Art of Copying by Means of the Camera Lucida,' and in a paper and memoir, "to associate the idea of labour with great complexity and elaborate detail of execution, that one is more struck at seeing the thousand fibres of cotton, or the delicate web of all its capillary branches (and the accurate delineation of them), than at wanting the little blivazé cray requiring to be examined through a lens) than one is by the picture of the large and simple leaf of an oak or a chestnut. But in truth all the objects of nature are equally simple, and these take no more time to execute than the others, for the object which would take the most skillful artist days or weeks of labour to trace or to copy, is effected by the boundless powers of natural chemistry in the space of a few seconds. And this is really the miracle of that wonderful art. A group of figures is as readily taken as a head or an eye. The buildings in a city as easily as a single object; the elaborate decorations of the finest architecture as speedily and correctly as a plain wall."

Daguerre's discovery was announced in the early part of January, 1839, but the details of his process were not published until July of the same year, after he had been in England for some time, and was anxious for the glory of endowing the world of science and art with one of the most surprising discoveries that honour their native land.

"As an art, an amateur in the art myself, it must be confessed, I was not prepared to give my assent to the practical photographer, who is more able to teach than to receive instruction. My intention is merely to give the uninitiated a little insight into the nature and principles of the art, and its productions have so often delighted them. I am anxious to make some some of you amateurs like myself; and as I believe that the Talbotype and Colloidion processes are better suited for amateurs than Daguerre's, I have endeavoured to give you, in the account of the latter process, and confine my remarks almost exclusively to the former. Those of you who have a preference to the foreign discovery, I must refer to the tuition of the Messrs. Freeman, and their pupils, who are now in England, and who are perfect in type in perfection, in all its practical details, and resort to their studios; take your friends along with you—sit for your likeness—and, if I may speak from experience, you will find that you will not be long in becoming operating and dark roomers. They have no secrets to conceal; the process has been published in all its details. This they can show you better than it can be described in books or lectures; but you must be interested in the art, and not in the science of the process and neatness in manipulation, and some knowledge of the chemical substances you employ."

SCIENTIFIC VARIETIES.

PROFESSOR OWEN has just made known the existence of a new species of wild man or chimpanzee, an animal larger, more ferocious, and in every respect more powerful than any previously known species of the genus. Information concerning this discovery of the African forests was communicated in a lecture to the members of the Royal Institution, on the 19th of January; his main object being to disprove the truth of the popular notion, which has been so generally developed, "according to which it has been assumed that animal forms of low grade may, by progressive stages of advancement, and in the course of many years, become elevated in the scale of creation. The species with all its gradations of form, and in this kind is too obvious for comment—that is to say, the outward gross resemblance—but it extends no farther. Even in the giant chimpanzee, the subject of Professor Owen's lecture, a creature far more human-looking than the orang-outang, the distinction between the brute and the man is inappreciable.

Having furnished our readers with an outline of the philosophy of Professor Owen's lecture, we will proceed to recapitulate for you the leading points connected with the natural history of orang-outangs and chimpanzees—creatures to which the vulgar appellation of *wild men* has been applied. Both are similar in the general features of external appearance, and distinguished from all other creatures of the class by their diverse; they are sufficiently so, however, to warrant a natural historical distinction.

Orang-outangs are natives of Borneo, and perhaps a few islands of the Indian Archipelago besides. Chimpanzees are natives of the African continent, and of Africa. In the latter region stories have long been widely circulated about a monkey-like creature, stronger and more ferocious than the lion, but no specimens of the creature brought to Europe until the late discovery of the existence of the species to be seen in our gardens are more like caricatures of stunted degraded old men than ferocious beasts—gentleness being more characteristic of their natures than ferocity. So much is curious and interesting, and highly coloured by the tales of negroes killed, maimed, or carried away by these monkey-monsters were all a myth. At length, however, a specimen of one of these creatures has been obtained, and may be seen in the menagerie of the Zoological Gardens. It is not necessary to bring him personally before the members of the Royal Institution; but he did the next best thing—he brought the animal's picture. From a consideration of the size and strength of the creature, and muscular development of the limbs, it is at least doubtful that it could of strength he was equal to the lion, and in point of cunning and intelligence he may be supposed to equal at least others of the monkey tribe; most probably, therefore, the tales so long current about his malicious and cruel propensities are quite correct.

If from the animal kingdom we now turn to the vegetable, a very important subject opens for our consideration—a substitute for the potato. Most persons, no doubt, are acquainted with the potato, and its uses. It was first introduced into Europe in 1565, and was first used in 1586, has never since been completely eradicated. Very important then is it to discover some equivalent for this justly valued vegetable. French botanists have been turning their attention for some time to the question, and have discovered in the genus *Ipomoea*, or *iguana*, but the latest botanical name of which is *Dioscorea Batatas*. The edible part of the plant is, in the case of the potato, a tuber; the quality of the latter, however, differs from the tuber in several important particulars. The tuber of the potato is a starchy juice; when cooked, it assumes the taste and consistence of boiled rice. The best season for planting this nutritious vegetable is in April (at Paris), and the tuber or edible portion of the *Dioscorea* is a fleshy, succulent, and starchy substance. The Chinese tuber is this if liked and dried in a stove, the allies may be ground like wheat into flour, and made into very excellent bread.

The Italian professor Targioni has been publishing a most interesting series of historical notes on cultivated plants. Respecting the orange, he says that this fruit was first conveyed from India to Arabia, in the ninth century; that in the sixteenth century sailors were introduced into Europe in the shape of rats. It was in Italy, but that shortly after this period they were carried westward by the Moors. Towards the end of the twelfth century they were grown at Seville; at Padua in 1565, and at Pisa in 1566. It is said that St. Dominic planted an orange for the convent of St. Sabina in Rome, in the year 1200. In the course of the same thirteenth century the crusaders found citrons, oranges, and lemons very abundant in Palestine, and introduced them into Europe. Citrus fruit, however, was very common in the thirteenth century. The shaddock, however, is believed to have arrived in Europe by a separate route. It was probably introduced to the south-eastern extremity of the Asian continent by the Arabs, and was introduced to the West Indies and from Jamaica and Barbadoes to England in early in the eighteenth century. It was, however, known earlier than this in Italy. Respecting the cedar of Lebanon professor Targioni mentions a curious fact. The tree is said to have been introduced into this country; they knew also that it grew in parts of Western Asia and Northern Africa, regions with which the Romans had much intercourse. Nevertheless the cedar of Lebanon was conveyed to Italy from Syria, and was first planted in the botanical garden of Pisa, nearly a century after Miller had introduced it into the Apothecaries' garden at Chelsea, and fifty-three years after Jussieu had planted his specimen in the Jardin des Plantes.

Professor Targioni has also recently forwarded a very interesting letter to his friend Mr. Stevens, and which has been brought before the Zoological Society, relative to some peculiar birds indigenous to the above colony. The birds are said to be of the same species as those which are now available to the

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